

Town of Twin Bridges Regular Council Meeting, May 9, 2023 (104. E. 6th Ave.)

Council Members in attendance were Nolan Frandsen, Scott Holbrook, Matt Greemore, and JB Klyap. Jordan High was absent. Also in attendance were Mayor Patricia Hayes, Clerk/Treasurer Kristi Millhouse, and Maintenance Supervisor Sam Novich and Ken Stensrud (Maintenance Supervisor in training)

Guests: Dan McCauley (Great West Engineering) and Town Attorney Lori Harshbarger

Public Comment: Matt Greemore spoke on behalf of Frank Williams. The Twin Bridges JR High Football team would like to do their car wash on July 9th. The football camp will be from July 20th to the 22nd.

NEW BUSINESS

Great West Engineering: Dan McCauley provided the council with Task Order 2 and 3 from Great West Engineering. Task Order #2 is for the Growth policy. Task Order #3 is for the floodplain administration. Annual renewal of the administration if the Town needs help with anything flood related and floodplain applications. Dan asked the council if they had any questions regarding either task order. Discussion occurred regarding the growth policy and coming up with a planning board for it and the subdivision regulations. Matt made a motion to approve Task Order #2 and #3 from Great West Engineering. Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Great West will present the next task order for the water project at the next meeting and will kick off the Sewer PER.

Sam reported to the council that the water tank has a leak. It appears to be underneath, and they determined it is leaking approximately a gallon to a half gallon of water per minute. Discussion occurred. Dan McCauley suggested that we look at it more as we move forward with the new water project. The Town needs someone who deals with the tanks all the time to determine why it is leaking. It's a Columbia Tank so we would probably start with them to determine the cause and to fix it.

Can we maintain water while the water tank is being repaired. Sam responded with some options that could occur to allow that to happen. It will be a process, but it can be done. Great West will be designing the Phase I Water Project this summer and then it will be ready for construction next summer. The leak repair could be two years out and would need to be done during a low water usage period. Ken and Dan will continue to monitor the leak to make sure it does not get worse.

Roger and Therese Hutchinson: Therese called and asked to be removed from the agenda. They will be put back on the agenda next month.

Credit Card Approval: Scott made a motion to approve a credit card for Ken Stensrud and cancel Sam Novich's card. Nolan seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Building applications: Andrew Braach (1 White Swan Lane) – Nolan made a motion to approve the building application for Andrew Braach. Motion seconded by JB. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Ann Kress (311 River St) – Scott made a motion to approve the building application for Ann Kress. Nolan seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Nolan and Elizabeth Frandsen (510 N. Bridge St.) Greenhouse – JB Klyap made a motion to approve the building application. Discussion occurred. No second. Motion failed. Matt made a motion to approve the greenhouse with a 5-foot setback. Scott seconded the motion. JB – No, Matt – yes, Scott – yes. Nolan abstained from the vote.

Fence Applications: Patrick and Jennifer Otterbeck (201 North Madison St.) – Matt made a motion to approve the fence application for Patrick and Jennifer Otterbeck. JB seconded the motion. Discussion occurred regarding the property lines. Matt made a motion to continue with the motion with the property owner verifying where the pins are. JB seconded the amendment. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Nolan Frandsen (S27, T03S, R6W, Tract A2 and Tract B) – Discussion occurred. Scott made a motion to approve the fence for Nolan Frandsen. Matt seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote. Nolan abstained from the vote.

Water Sewer Connection: Nolan Frandsen (106 W. 10th Ave) – Wants to connect the water line from 10th/Bridge and T to go to the shop. NOCON will be the contractor. Discussion occurred. Town pays the saddle and quart valve. Nolan pays for the remainder of the materials.

Handbook Amendment: Kristi received notification from MMIA that we need to add “unauthorized” on page 19 of the handbook to bring the handbook into compliance with the new concealed weapons laws. Matt made a motion to approve the amended wording in the handbook on page 19 to include the wording unauthorized “The policy prohibits employees from bring unauthorized personal firearms or other weapons” and “Employees are also prohibited from carrying unauthorized firearms...”. Motion was seconded by JB. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Water/Sewer Ordinance: Patty reported that she has received Sam’s comments and Kristi’s comments on the two ordinances. She and Kristi will combine all the comments and provide them to the council at the July meeting. Matt also has comments to add.

REPORTS

Sheriff’s Report: Written report received.

Madison County Planning Board Report: Pat Bradley provided a report from the planning board.

Library Director’s Report: No report received.

Fire Department’s Report: Fire Chief Scott Holbrook commented that they started purchasing equipment for the new fire truck. They have had one grass fire so far.

Matt asked about whether Scott has been up to the dump lately. It’s full right now. Matt wanted to make sure that the County contacted the Fire Department before burning. Discussion occurred. Scott said they have changed the way they burn at the dump, so the process has improved for the fire department. They usually let them know ahead of time.

Attorney’s Report: Attorney Lori Harshbarger reported that the Stonebraker deal is now closed. The survey needs to file all the documents with the County. After that is completed the funds for the sell of the ground will be disbursed to the Town. The money is sitting in a trust account.

Break into Executive Session at 8:18 pm for legal discussion.

Resumed regular session at 8:21 pm.

Kristi asked the Council if they wanted to send the past due business licenses and dog licenses a letter from the Attorney. Discussion occurred. Kristi will provide a list to Attorney Harshbarger.

Maintenance Report: Ken provided a report to the council regarding the dust abatement. A quote from Lyman out of Kalispell was for \$16,500 per application to do all the Town’s roads. Sam and Ken met Lyman the other day and he looked at the roads and measured everything. The cost is now down to \$13,400 if the Town sprays at the end of May when Lyman does the railroad. Wanting to put double the lignin application than what has been done in the past. Wormath cannot get the product. What is the alternative? Start saving to pave the roads or find more material to crush to help keep the dust down. Discussion occurred. Mag Chloride is not an option because of the way it affects the water and sewer lines.

Lean-to at the Shop - Ken and Sam investigated the cost for a wood structure lean-to. It would cost \$4,200. There is currently \$4500 in the budget for building improvements. Matt made a motion to approve the building of the lean-to. Nolan seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Winston Rod Pump – The new pump showed up last week for Winston Rod. Currently it is running on an old pump that is being kept as a backup. They are just waiting for the check valve and as soon as that is here, they will get the pump replaced.

Lagoon Moss – Moss is starting to come back already. Ken and Sam talked to Fred Lemming out of Wyoming. He deals with high dollar ponds. He is going to help the Town figure out the moss issue and set us up on a maintenance plan. Sam did have to collect some water samples and tested so Lemming could determine what was causing the moss.

JB Klyap asked whether Sam had tried the barley and he stated that he used a guy called the Pond Guy. Ken commented that in his experience with pumps and irrigation systems the barley plugs up the pump. Would have to put it in during the fall so it can break down over the winter. Further discussion occurred regarding the moss.

Sam's Water Certifications – Ken asked if the Council would be willing to keep Sam's certifications for water and sewer up to date as a backup if something happens where he and Rick are not available. There is an annual fee and every two years he would need to complete the continuing education requirements. Sam's CE's have been completed for two years (current year and next year). Bobbie from Montana Rural Water is coming down on the 23rd to work with Ken on getting his training started.

Sewer Taps – Maintenance is working on two sewer taps. One for Roger Hutchinson on the new house currently being built and one over at Janie Wasmann's house.

Water Tower Shop – Maintenance has completed the new tin on the water tower shop roof. All that needs to be done is the trimming out. If the weather is nice tomorrow, they will get that completed.

The council provided Sam Novich with a plaque and a thank you for 37 years of service to the Town of Twin Bridges.

Clerks Report: Clerk Kristi Millhouse reported that she is looking into some investment scenarios for the Town funds, so we can make a little more interest on the cash. She discussed the STIP program with the State and options with the local bank. She will get some additional information and present it at the next council meeting.

Kristi also commented that we need to put some bylaws together for the council, to clarify their job and hold them accountable for their responsibilities.

Consent Agenda (April 11, 2023, Minutes and Claims): Scott made a motion to approve the consent agenda for the May 9, 2023, regular council meeting. JB Klyap seconded the motion. Motion approved with a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm

ATTEST

Signatures on File on original minutes

Kristi Millhouse, Clerk Treasurer

Patricia Hayes, Mayor